

Appl. No. 09/615,117
 Supplemental Amdt. dated April 9, 2004
 Supplemental Reply to Office Action of October 3, 2003

Amendments to the Specification

Rewrite the paragraph at page 12, lines 18 to page 13, line 3 as follows:

B1 In an alternative embodiment, the sensor 20 is omitted. The digital signal processor is then configured to apply standard image processing techniques to compute the vertical alignment axis "U" of each frame. The mis-alignment angle is thus determined from an analysis of the image content of the frames themselves. One technique is to identify mutually perpendicular straight lines that intersect between data objects in the image. These can then be classified into vertical and horizontal lines from which the alignment axis "U" can be deduced. Referring to the image shown in Figure 2, such lines appear at the border between data objects 1 & 2, and 1 & 4. An advantage of this technique is that the orientation of objects can be identified using contrast techniques to isolate the boundaries of the object. If an object is irregular in shape the DSP can be configured so as to perform no alignment correction. For example, a sequence of images of a dropping flower can be processed by making no alignment correction, since no straight alignment lines are identified.